

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

“Be Holy for I am Holy”
Introduction to the Book of Leviticus

The Kingdom of God

“God’s people in God’s place under God’s rule and blessing”

The Kingdom of God

1. Kingdom Modeled (Gen. 1-2)

- Man enjoyed God’s limitless blessing and His presence, while ruling for God from Eden

The Kingdom of God

2. Kingdom Lost (Gen. 3-11)

- due to man’s rebellion and corruption, he was banished from Eden and subjected to death
- “dark ages” – 2000 years of no kingdom expression

The Kingdom of God

3. Kingdom Promised (Gen. 12-50)

- to Abraham – an everlasting covenant
 - “land” – everlasting possession
 - “seed” – a multitude (great nation)
 - “blessing” – to the nations

This is the foundational promise of the Bible!

The Kingdom of God

4. Kingdom in Part (Exodus...)

- God begins to specifically fulfill His kingdom promises made to Abraham
- “*In Part*” – this will not be the final fulfillment of God’s kingdom promise but will foreshadow it

The centerpiece: *The Covenant at Mt. Sinai*

The Kingdom of God

Purpose of the Law

- *to define God's people as a nation*
 - "holy nation" – uniquely set apart to God as His representatives
 - a nation in which God uniquely dwells – the tabernacle and priesthood
 - *Christocentrically* – foreshadows the work and righteousness of Christ

Book of Leviticus

Chronology

Year One:

- April 15 – leave Egypt
- June 3 – arrive at Mt. Sinai
- June to September? – Moses on the mountain
- October to March – built the tabernacle

Year Two:

- April 1 – erected the tabernacle
- April 1-30 – *the Book of Leviticus*

Book of Leviticus

Unifying Emphasis: "Holiness"

"For I am Yahweh, who brought you up from the land of Egypt, to be your God; thus *you shall be holy for I am holy.*"

– Leviticus 11:45

Book of Leviticus

Overall Impression

- There is a way to know and worship God, though He is absolutely holy
- God will be known and worshiped on His terms alone